



# State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez  
*Governor*

July 11, 2011

Mr. Sam Coleman  
Director, Superfund Division  
EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Sam,

On behalf of the people of New Mexico, thank you for the assistance provided by the Environmental Protection Agency during the 2011 Las Conchas Wildfire in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The EPA did not hesitate to make resources available to the New Mexico Environment Department during this crisis.

I would like to specifically thank your department for the use of the ASPECT Aircraft for monitoring air quality over the region. Your team of experts did a stellar job of providing real-time data of radiation levels in the affected areas. As expected, the radiation levels were well within normal ranges. However, the ASPECT data was vital in our job to provide immediate transparency to the public about the status of radiation levels over the wildfire. Our ability to take that data and post it to the New Mexico Environment Department's website was critical to providing that transparency. The ASPECT Aircraft also gave the State of New Mexico a crucial tool to verify information coming out of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Your staff members who worked long hours over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday to ensure the safety of our citizens also deserve a special thank you. This includes, but is not limited to, your Incident Command Team, Air Monitor Technicians, Radiological Response Team, Data Management Team Members, ASPECT Aircraft personnel, and Public Information Officers. I recognize their work is still ongoing, as data from air monitor locations sent out-of-state for analysis continues to return to our team members.

The cooperation between state and federal agencies is essential during any crisis. I could not have hoped for better cooperation between our state employees and the EPA personnel on the ground in New Mexico. I have received numerous reports about the professionalism of your staff in the field. With the ever-present possibility of any kind of future crisis, it is reassuring to know that state and federal agencies can work efficiently and effectively under pressure.

Again, you have my most sincere thanks for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez  
Governor

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